

“THINK BEFORE YOU INK”



LWV ALERTS VOTERS ON SIGNING PETITIONS FOR AN INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM MEASURE

LWV of La Plata County lists six questions voters can ask themselves to help them determine whether or not to sign a petition:

- **Is it complex? Some issues can be decided by a simple yes or no vote. Complex issues may need to be thoroughly examined and debated in a legislative arena.**
- **Is it confusing? Some initiatives are not well written or contain conflicts that may require court resolution or interpretation.**
- **Does it belong in the Constitution? If the measure would amend the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs there. Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change? Correcting a constitutional amendment later would also require amending the Constitution, is cumbersome and costly, and requires another vote of the people.**
- **How will it be funded? Is it an “unfunded mandate” that would require the Legislature to take funds from other essential programs? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of a government budget with already limited revenue. An initiative or referendum should generally create its own revenue source, and not earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of the General Fund revenues.**
- **Who is behind it? Ask which organization or person is behind this petition.**
- **Before you sign, ask to see identification of the signature gatherer. If the person is a volunteer they must display an identification badge that includes the words “VOLUNTEER CIRCULATOR” in bold-faced type that is clearly legible. If the circulator is paid they must display an identification badge that includes the words “PAID CIRCULATOR” in bold-faced type that is clearly legible and the name and telephone number of the individual employing the circulator. The signature gatherer must be a resident of Colorado, a citizen of the United States, and at least eighteen years old.**

The above is modified for the State of Colorado with thanks to the LWV of Oregon